



Flathead County
Emergency Medical Services
Administrative Board

Flathead County EMS
625 Timberwolf Parkway
Kalispell, MT 59901
406 - 751 -8191
emslife@flathead.mt.gov

January 24th 2011

Regular Meeting, Flathead Emergency Communications Center

Members Present

Wayne Miller, MD
Myrt Webb
Jason Spring
Bob Kun
Velinda Stevens

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Miller at 2:00p.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION to approve agenda as received, Stevens

SECOND, Kun

Approved

Approval of Minutes

MOTION to approve Minutes of November 15th 2010, Spring

SECOND, Stevens

Approved

Citizen Comments

None

EMS Managers report – Mary Granger

Education:

- The Paramedic Refresher at the College is complete. Currently there is a refresher in Whitefish and Bigfork that is following the same format as the County Refresher. Input from the students has been positive with the online component and increased time for skill review.
- EMT-Basic class is finished and 18 of the 21 students completed the class. All students have applied for service participation in local agencies. 5 have completed the written portion of the exam and are in the process of applying for state licensure.
- The EMS office has completed one EMT Basic Refresher, and we have another scheduled for Feb. 5 & 12 at FVCC. We are offering one EMT First Responder Refresher at FVCC on Feb. 19.

Others Present

Mary Granger
Tom Kennelly
Dan Diehl
Amanda Norenberg
Lance Westgard
Kris Long
Russell Sappington
Kim Vierra
Craig Montgomery
Jill Cheman
Nat O'Farrell
Ed Burlingame

- Amanda has continued to do a superior job of organizing our Monthly CEU nights. Attendance has been increasing and feedback has been positive. There is great support from the hospitals and other professional groups in supplying us with individuals that are willing to come and share their expertise for our classes.
- The initial and endorsement refreshers are being scheduled. This will continue throughout the Spring.
- “Sick or Not Sick” is an exciting class scheduled for May 14th. This will be applicable to all levels of training for the prehospital provider.

Blacktail Mountain Resort

- Granger has been working with John Ledyard to create a QRU at Blacktail Mountain. They will respond to the area of Blacktail Mountain only. An application for QRU status with the State has been submitted. Dr. Briles needs to do the medical director assurances and agreements between ALERT/KRMC for ALS transport, and Lakeside for BLS transport has been requested. Run cards already reflect the dispatch of ALERT for ALS and Lakeside for BLS. Personnel at the site are at Basic and occasionally ALS level.

Run Cards

- In general run cards are running without issue. Both dispatch and field personnel are getting more comfortable with the process.
- Glacier Park has met with Glacier National Park and has the process set up to notify the Park if there is a call. They dispatched local personnel to the site, assessment is made and resources are then ordered through our dispatch center. Run cards are in place to handle all calls for service within the park. It is a tiered response with GNP going first and then the request for mutual aid comes at a second alarm.
- Dr. Briles has requested that certain areas within the valley be looked at for the best utilization of ALERT. Changes in those areas have been made with one exception in the Foothills Creston area. Granger is still waiting for Chief Mahugh to finalize that area. In all other areas ALERT has been changed to initial response on ALS calls. Areas affected are Three Rivers East of the Packers Roost to the Summit, into the North Fork, and Hungry Horse Reservoir, West of Marion, Ashley Lake area, Olney area, Whitefish Rural, Smith Valley South Zones, Bigfork and Ferndale (if ALS is not available by Bigfork), and Southern Creston Area if Bigfork is not ALS.

Drug Security Policy

- Granger and Dr. Briles are ready to begin the process of establishing guidelines for securing medications and disposing medications in the units.

Flathead EMS Regulations

- The EMS regulations are being evaluated.

Dr. Briles

QA/QI Progress

- Dr. Briles has done two county wide run reviews for us. They have been well attended and received by the pre-hospital personnel. Feedback has been very positive and personnel look forward to them every three months. He has spoken w/ Dr. Miller to perhaps find a way for our office to support an RN that could help review unit runs and select runs that need review.
- Dr. Briles has approved a program of assessing EMT-Basics and their skill level in their endorsements.
- Dr. Briles is looking at the same type of requirements for proficiency guarantee in the Paramedic areas as well. Nothing developed yet.

BLS/ALS Transfer Guidelines

- As per Dr. Brile's request, EMS Transport units have looked at his BLS-ALS Transfer Guidelines. The Transport units met last week and have some concerns that remain unresolved. The units are requesting a meeting with Dr. Briles to discuss some issues. This meeting will be scheduled soon.

MCI

- OES is scheduling a Mass Casualty exercise with the Airport, North Valley Hospital, Kalispell Regional Medical Center, Red Cross, Montana Highway Patrol, Flathead County Sheriff's Office, Border Patrol, to mention a few. This exercise will be April 16 and will involve all EMS units that are on the run cards for an MCI in that area. Amanda has been working closely with this project to recruit actors for the injured.

Communications Request

- Mr. Spillman has provided us with the information we requested to explain his request for \$10,000 to support the tower improvements discussed before.

Request to hold the budget reserve to 15%

- As instructed by the EMS Board, Granger has written a letter to the Flathead County Commissioners informing them that the Board believes a 15% reserve in the 2273 account is adequate. The letter was sent December 28, 2010. As yet there has been no response. Dr. Miller will speak w/ Mike Pence about this.

Mill Levy Distribution

- The December Fiscal Year 2011 disbursements have been given to the units.
- Blacktail Mountain QRU will join the Spring Mill distribution.

Other News:

- Smith Valley Fire has experienced a change in leadership this last week. Art Beilz, Assistant Chief, and Doug Scarff, Chief, have both resigned. The board has appointment Jill Cheman as Chief.
- West Valley, Fire Chief Rodney Dresbach, has announced that he will retire in February.
- West Flathead EMS has moved to a closer location to Kalispell, and is working with Kalispell to have run cards changed so that the ambulance will respond to the West side of Kalispell when KFD does not have a unit available. This supports the concept of nearest ambulance dispatch when the local ambulance is not available.

Medical Directors Update – Richard Briles, MD
Dr. Briles Absent

Advisory Committee Report – Kris Long

Long explained the Committee has decreased the meeting schedule to quarterly. The Committee will meet next on February 14th 2011. The Committee has also voted in a Vice Chair, Scott Miller of GPIA.

Agency Audit Requirement - Webb

Webb expressed the possibility of the Board requiring an audit of the mill distribution per agency. There was discussion regarding the cost associated with a traditional audit and if required, would the County pay. Webb requested the Advisory Committee to research the possibility of an audit and the alternatives. Kun expressed concern surrounding the idea of an EMS Agencies full audit and whether it was within the jurisdiction of the Board. Spring questioned the agencies who maintain audits within their units and if the board is authorized to request and view them. Miller suggested the agencies maintaining receipts for purchases made with EMS mill monies.

Diehl requested the board make an inquiry with the 911 Operations board regarding the time of call to the time of dispatch times. The Board will make this request to the 911 Operations board.

Stevens would like to request a survey from the Units regarding audit procedures.

Spring discussed the development of a Strategic plan and the components including standards of operations and the direction of the EMS system. “Where are we going and how do we get there”. Spring asked the Board to define a structure for the EMS system.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Stevens nominated Miller and Webb, seconded by Kun

MOTION to Approve Wayne Miller, MD as Chairman and Myrt Webb as Vice Chairman, Kun

SECOND, Spring

Approved

Other Business/future Agenda Requests

Spring requested the EMS office provide a report from Dispatch reflecting the call taker volumes and time to dispatch.

Board Member Comments

Kun expressed to the Board his concerns surrounding the possible audits and cautioned the Advisory Committee to research the legal aspects of this request. Spring agreed to this request and furthered his comment with limiting the scope of the audit and the management.

Consider Medical Director Contract – Executive Session

Open Meeting continued 3:50

MOTION to approve Medical Director Contract, Spring

SECOND, Kun

Approved

Public Meeting Adjourned 4:00p